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No. 109

RALEIGH, N. C.

MAY 15, 1952

MAY 1, 1952 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SUMMARY

Conditions as reported by Tar Heel farmers around May 1 point to another excellent wheat crop with yields and production approaching the record of 1951. Prospects for other small grain crops are generally favorable.

May crops are in generally good condition and are showing further improvement following recent rains. Peach prospects continue to point to a bountiful crop of good quality peaches. Orchards have been kept clean and generally free of insects. The commercial early Irish potato crop was hurt by adverse weather at planting which has reduced yield prospects considerably from last year.

Pasture conditions were good as of May 1, averaging 5 points above condition on the same date a year earlier. Total milk production on farms in the State during April was up slightly from output during March but slightly below production for the same period a year earlier. There was a seasonal decline in number of layers on North Carolina farms during April due to spring culling, but this was more than off-set by

(Continued on Page 2)

BIG WHEAT CROP

An estimate based upon the May 1 condition of wheat places production prospects at 8,624,000 bushels for North Carolina. A crop this size would be second in production only to last year when 8,763,000 bushels were harvested.

A 22-bushel per acre yield is expected this season, compared to 23 bushels last year. The 1952 acreage of wheat to be harvested for grain is currently set at 392,000 acres. In 1951, 381,000 acres were harvested.

For the most part, wheat looks good in all areas of the State. Stands are good and the crop is generally free of insect and disease damage. By May 1, heading was well advanced in the Coastal Plains and southern Piedmont areas.

MILK PRODUCTION REVISED SEASONAL INCREASE CONTINUES

In the table below are shown revised estimates of North Carolina's milk cow numbers, production per cow and total production for the months of January through April, 1952. These revised estimates result from the reappraisal of sample information in light of the trend and level established by the 1950 U. S. Census of Agriculture. The complete revised monthly series for the years 1944 through 1951 will be published in the near future, and more detailed information concerning these revisions will be given then.

Milk production for April this year at 136 million pounds was seasonally up from March production but was slightly under March a year ago. Spring freshening of heifers resulted in a slight increase in total milk animals during April compared to March.

REVISED NORTH CAROLINA MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION JAN.-APRIL 1952 ^{1/}

MONTH	NO. MILK COWS	PROD. PER COW	TOTAL PROD.
	(000)	(POUNDS)	(MIL. LBS.)
JAN.	359	334	120
FEB.	360	321	116
MARCH	360	342	123
APRIL	361	376	136

^{1/} Revised to level established by the 1950 U. S. Census of Agriculture.

SMALL RYE CROP IN N. C.

The first estimate of the season places rye production in North Carolina at 196,000 bushels. Should such a production materialize it would be one of the smallest crops since 1902 when only 175,000 bushels were harvested. This year's crop is expected to be harvested from 14,000 acres (the lowest in 86 years of records) with an average yield of 14 bushels per acre. Last year 210,000 bushels were harvested from 15,000 acres.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION BREAKS RECORD

North Carolina's farm flocks produced 149 million eggs during the month of April -- the highest for any one month on record. The previous record was during the month of April, 1947, when 144 million eggs were produced. This is an increase of 28 percent over production during April 1951. This increase was due to the higher number of layers on farms and also to the increased rate of lay. The rate of lay for April was 1,716 eggs per 100 layers as compared with 1,710 per 100 layers for April, 1951.

PROSPECTS FOR ANOTHER GOOD PEACH CROP

Conditions remained favorable during April and prospects point toward another good peach crop in North Carolina this year. The first forecast of the season, based on the May 1 condition of the crop, places the combined production of both farm and commercial crops at 1,798,000 bushels. This is only slightly below last year's revised production of 1,806,000 bushels.

Generally, orchards in the commercial Sandhills are clean and have been well kept this season. Very little late freeze damage was sustained and growers have been alert to guard against diseases and insects.

MAY 1 PEACH CROP ESTIMATES

STATE	1952	1951
	THOUSAND BUSHELS	
N. C.....	1,798	1,806
S. C.....	4,514	4,980
GA.....	3,672	3,975
FLA.....	22	24
ALA.....	630	256
MISS.....	552	255
ARK.....	1,620	1,044
LA.....	110	63
OKLA.....	308	413
TEXAS.....	495	696
10 STATES...	13,721	13,512

^{1/} Includes excess cullage of harvested fruit.

PRODUCTION OF FLUE-CURED IN ALL STATES AND BURLEY TOBACCO BY SELECTED STATES 1950 and 1951 (REVISED)

PRODUCING STATE	TYPE No.	ACREAGE HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		AV. PRICE PER LB. REC'D BY FARMERS		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
		1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
		ACRES		POUNDS		THOUSAND POUNDS		CENTS		THOUSAND DOLLARS	
FLUE-CURED											
NORTH CAROLINA.....	11	254,000	290,000	1,300	1,170	330,200	339,300	54.5	51.3	179,959	174,061
NORTH CAROLINA.....	12	307,000	356,000	1,380	1,435	423,660	510,860	56.4	55.1	238,944	281,484
NORTH CAROLINA.....	13	79,000	92,000	1,320	1,385	104,280	127,480	56.2	52.9	58,605	67,437
TOTAL N. C. FLUE-CURED.....	11-13	640,000	738,000	1,341	1,325	858,140	977,640	55.6	53.5	477,508	522,982
VIRGINIA.....	11	94,000	109,000	1,375	1,240	129,250	135,160	55.2	53.8	71,346	72,716
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	13	114,000	132,000	1,320	1,330	150,480	175,560	54.3	50.6	81,711	88,833
GEORGIA.....	14	92,000	111,000	1,095	1,225	100,740	135,975	47.8	45.5	48,154	61,869
FLORIDA.....	14	18,000	22,500	1,015	1,200	18,270	27,000	51.4	51.6	9,391	13,932
ALABAMA.....	14	400	600	1,000	1,050	400	630	47.0	47.0	188	296
TOTAL ALL FLUE-CURED TYPES	11-14	958,400	1,113,100	1,312	1,304	1,257,280	1,451,965	54.7	52.4	688,298	760,628
BURLEY											
NORTH CAROLINA.....	31	10,500	12,200	1,700	1,750	17,850	21,350	51.4	54.2	9,175	11,572
KENTUCKY.....	31	278,000	312,000	1,165	1,340	323,870	418,080	48.9	50.6	158,372	211,548
TENNESSEE.....	31	77,000	85,000	1,320	1,315	101,640	111,775	49.0	53.2	49,804	59,464
VIRGINIA.....	31	11,800	14,000	1,680	1,730	19,824	24,220	51.4	53.4	10,190	12,933
WEST VIRGINIA.....	31	3,100	3,100	1,090	1,380	3,379	4,278	45.1	52.5	1,524	2,246
TOTAL ALL LIGHT AIR-CURED.	31-32	458,300	508,100	1,176	1,295	539,023	658,115	48.9	51.0	263,736	335,904
UNITED STATES, ALL TOBACCO	ALL	1,599,000	1,781,400	1,269	1,307	2,029,567	2,328,226	51.7	51.2	1,048,503	1,190,920

1951 NORTH CAROLINA TOBACCO PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD

Flue-cured tobacco production in North Carolina during 1951 totaled 977,640,000 pounds which was a record crop. The previous record North Carolina flue-cured crop was produced in 1946 with a total of 912,970,000 pounds. There were 738,000 acres harvested in 1951 as compared with 802,000 acres in 1946. Percentagewise, 1951 flue-cured production exceeded 1946 by 7.1 percent while the acres harvested in 1951 was 8.0 percent less than 1946. The 1951 N. C. flue-cured yield averaged 1,325 pounds which exceeded the 1946 yield of 1,138 pounds by 16.4 percent.

An average North Carolina flue-cured yield of 1,325 pounds in 1951 was 16 pounds less than the record set

in 1950. Record high North Carolina yields were made in both Types 12 and 13. The average Type 11 1951 yield was 1,170 pounds compared with 1,300 pounds in 1950. The Type 11 yield was reduced by extended dry weather during the growing season. Hence, a record flue-cured yield would have been set in 1951 with more favorable weather in Type 11.

The value of the 1951 North Carolina flue-cured crop amounted to \$522,982,000 which was also a new record. The previous record value was set in 1950 by \$477,508,000.

Production of burley tobacco in North Carolina in 1951 totaled 21,350,000 pounds. This is also the highest burley production of record.

RECORD BROILER PRODUCTION IN 1951

Commercial broiler production in North Carolina totaled a record high of 32,606,000 birds in 1951. This is about 16 percent greater than the 28,109,000 birds produced in 1950. Broilers produced were marketed at an average liveweight of 2.8 pounds per bird - the same average liveweight as in 1950. Prices received for commercial broilers in 1951 were somewhat better than in 1950. The 1951 season's average price was 26.3 cents per pound, or 1.6 cents above the 1950 price per pound.

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME, 1950-51

YEAR	PRODUCED NUMBER POUNDS	AV. WT. PER BIRD	PRICE PER POUND	GROSS INCOME ^{1/}
	THOUS.	LBS.	CENTS	THOUS. DOL.
1950	28,109	78,705	2.8	26.3
1951	32,606	91,297	2.8	27.9

^{1/} Includes consumption in households of producers.

GENERAL SUMMARY (Continued)

the seasonal increase in rate of lay, and total egg production was the highest of any month on record.

Farm labor supplies have been fairly adequate in most sections for getting crops planted, but a tight situation is expected at harvest. April rainfall was mostly in the form of light and scattered showers up to the last week of the month when good rains fell in most areas of the State. This relieved the dry conditions which were retarding farm work and crop growth. There are still a few dry areas in the State, especially in southeastern sections where additional rains are needed. Temperatures were on the cool side around the middle of April, especially at night. Freezes occurred on several mornings in mountain counties, with some light freezes reported from Piedmont sections.

HAY STOCKS LOWEST SINCE 1944

Stocks of hay on North Carolina farms as of May 1 totalled 233,000 tons. This is 2 percent less than stocks on hand a year earlier and the smallest May 1 carryover of hay in the State since 1944. The 10-year average May 1 supply of hay in North Carolina is 287,000 tons, 19 percent above current stocks.

The dry weather conditions which prevailed over most of the State throughout the fall and winter months greatly reduced the carrying capacity of pastures. This necessitated the feeding of more hay than is normally required to keep livestock in good condition. Another factor contributing to the small May 1 supply of hay is the steady increase of cattle numbers in the State during the past few years while 1951 hay production was the smallest since 1942.

OATS PROSPECTS GOOD

As of May 1, North Carolina farmers indicated the condition of the oats crop was generally good. The reported condition of 83 percent of normal is 1 point higher than the May 1 condition of last year.

By May 1, the crop was headed or heading in all areas of the State. The dry conditions that prevailed during most of April caused the crop to head out rather low. However, general rains during the last week of April were very beneficial and good yields are expected in most areas.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1951 PRELIMINARY

CROPS	UNIT	PRODUC- TION	USED FOR SEED		FED TO LIVE- STOCK	FOR USE IN FARM HOUSE- HOLD	SOLD	SEASON'S AV- PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS	VALUE OF PRODUC- TION	VALUE OF PRODUCTS USED IN HOUSE- HOLD	VALUE OF SALES
			TOTAL	ON FARM WHERE GROWN							
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	DOLLARS	THOUSAND DOLLARS		
WHEAT.....	Bu.	8,763	640	474	1,928	619	5,742	2/ 2.10	18,402	1,300	12,058
CORN.....	Bu.	67,611	1/	1/	1/ 55,264	1,896	10,451	2/ 1.75	118,319	3,318	18,289
OATS.....	Bu.	14,271	1/	1/	1/ 10,703	-	3,568	2/ .90	12,844	-	3,211
BARLEY.....	Bu.	1,260	1/	1/	1/ 1,058	-	202	2/ 1.33	1,676	-	269
RYE.....	Bu.	210	144	27	84	3	96	2/ 2.21	464	7	212
SORGHUM, GRAIN....	Bu.	990	1/	1/	1/ 693	-	297	1.54	1,525	-	457
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS	Bu.	4,950	714	493	198	-	4,259	2/ 2.60	12,870	-	11,073
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS..	Bu.	95	59	42	5	14	34	4.70	446	66	160
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED..	LBS.	287,500	3/18,360	12,852	862	2,100	271,686	12.00	34,500	252	32,602
HAY, ALL.....	Tons	1,225	-	-	1,133	-	92	31.00	37,975	-	2,852
LESPEDEZA SEED....	LBS.	20,900	-	8,987	-	-	11,913	12.80	2,675	-	1,525
IRISH POTATOES.....	Bu.	6,909	588	88	276	2,030	4/4,515	1.31	9,051	2,659	5,915
SWEET POTATOES.....	Bu.	3,760	273	197	714	1,426	1,423	3.15	11,844	4,492	4,482
SORGHUM, SIRUP.....	GALS.	260	-	-	-	190	70	2.20	572	-	154

1/ Seed not shown separately, combined with "Fed to livestock".

2/ Includes an allowance for unredeemed loan and purchase agreement deliveries valued at the average rate for bushels, by states.

3/ The difference between total seed and seed used on farms where grown represents peanuts purchased for seed and is duplicated under "sold".

4/ Consists of potatoes sold and to be sold for all purposes, including feed, seed, processing and livestock food.

N. C. CROPS IN 1951

The above table shows production and general disposition break-down of principal crops grown in North Carolina in 1951. In addition, average prices received and values are shown. Similar information is shown for tobacco and cotton in this issue.

POTATO PROSPECTS DOWN

Production of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina in 1952 is currently estimated at 3,238,000 bushels -- 17 percent less than the 3,885,000 bushels produced last year and 39 percent below the 1941-50 average of 5,394,000 bushels.

Current prospects point to an average yield of 175 bushels per acre. This is 35 bushels per acre less than last year's harvested yield but 4 bushels above the 10-year average of 171 bushels per acre.

The current estimate of 18,000 acres for harvest is the same as last year's harvested acreage but 43 percent under the 10-year average.

This year's potato crop is unusually variable in development ranging from some plantings just coming up to the blooming stage. Due to the unfavorable conditions which prevailed during the normal planting season, planting in some areas was delayed a month or more and replanting has been quite heavy in most of the commercial belt. The lateness of the season caused some growers to plant their acreage to other crops rather than replant potatoes.

Harvest is expected to begin the latter part of May and should extend over a longer period than usual this year.

COTTON AND COTTONSEED PRODUCTION, 1951

Ginnings for the 1951 season indicate a North Carolina Cotton Crop of 542,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. This was 361,000 bales more than the short 1950 crop, but 37,000 bales less than the 10-year average production. Based on the season average price to May 1 of 38.7 cents per pound, the 1951 crop had a value of \$104,834,000 -- the highest since 1925. The 1950 crop averaged 41.04 cents per pound and was valued at \$37,158,000.

Cottonseed production from the 1951 crop is estimated at 223,000 tons, compared with 75,000 tons in 1950. The 1951 cottonseed production is valued at \$15,778,000 on the basis of the indicated season average price of \$69.20 per ton. The combined value of lint and cottonseed from the 1951 crop is estimated at \$120, - 662,000 compared with \$43,383,000 for the 1950 crop.

It is estimated that 698,000 acres of cotton was in cultivation in North Carolina on July 1, 1951, 97,000 acres more than was in cultivation on July

1, 1950 but 65,000 acres below the 10-year average. It is estimated that 8,000 acres were abandoned after July 1, leaving 690,000 acres from which cotton was harvested. This compares with 21,000 acres abandoned and 580,000 acres harvested in 1950.

The 1951 lint yield per acre of 376 pounds was 7 pounds above average and compares with the 1950 yield of 149 pounds.

On the basis of reports from Tar Heel growers, their 1951 yields were 22 percent below a full yield. The reduction from full yield due to boll weevil was 11 percent, deficient moisture 5 percent, other climatic causes 2 percent, other insects 2 percent, excessive moisture 1 percent and plant diseases 1 percent. Yields from the 1950 crop were reduced 69 percent from a full yield of which the boll weevil accounted for 54 percent, excessive moisture 8 percent, other climatic causes, plant diseases and other insects 2 percent each, and deficient moisture 1 percent.

NORTH CAROLINA FINAL COTTON SUMMARY

ITEMS	UNIT	1950 1/	1951
ACRES HARVESTED.....	ACRES	580,000	690,000
YIELD PER ACRE (LINT).....	LBS.	149	376
PRODUCTION (LINT).....	BALES 2/	181,080	542,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (LB.).....	CENTS	41.04	38.7
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT).....	DOLS.	37,158,000	104,884,000
PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED).....	THOUS.	75,000	228,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (TON).....	DOLS.	83.00	69.20
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED)...	DOLS.	6,225,000	15,778,000
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT & SEED)...	DOLS.	43,383,000	120,662,000

1/ Revised

2/ 500 pounds gross weight bales

FARM REPORT

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MAY 15, 1952

FARM REPORT

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APRIL WEATHER SUMMARY

Tradition to the contrary notwithstanding, April usually brings to North Carolina more of sunshine than showers. Even so, there was more fair weather in April, 1952, than in most Aprils. It was cloudy and rainy at the beginning of the month, and low pressure storms passed close enough to affect North Carolina weather on the 4th-5th, again around the 13th-15th, and finally during the period beginning late on the 23rd and ending on the 29th. During the remaining seventeen days of April weather was generally fair. Each of the storm periods brought some windy weather; a small but destructive tornado struck western Wake County early on the 5th.

April weather was warm at the beginning, for the four-day period following the 10th, and for about a week centered around the 21st. The latter period was the warmest as well as the longest, and records were broken at a number of places in the State. On one or more days near the 21st, the mercury reached 90 or higher at places in the interior southeast and the Piedmont. The remaining days of the month were seasonable or cooler; the lowest temperature at most places was recorded on the morning of the 7th or 8th, and ranged from below freezing in the mountains to the upper thirties in the coastal counties.

Most parts of North Carolina got only small amounts of rain from the various storm periods that occurred during the first two-thirds of April. The last week in March, otherwise a wet month, had brought little rain, so that the long dry period of early April added up to nearly a month without important rainfall over most of the State's area. Then, beginning with a few sprinkles in the mountains on the 23rd, general rains spread over the State, continuing for a week in most sections.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER MARCH 1951 - 1952*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE..	6.5	6.7	5,522	5,484	1,301.0	1,274.0	1,271,550	1,240,092
CALVES..	3.6	3.6	671	601	760.7	700.3	127,446	122,593
SHEEP & LAMBS..	-	.1	-	12	798.5	1,038.0	83,167	108,634
HOGS....	37.0	57.0	8,657	12,737	6,168.0	7,005.0	1,455,294	1,642,070

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

HOG SLAUGHTER RECORD HIGH FOR MONTH

North Carolina's commercial plants slaughtered 57,000 head of hogs during March. This was a record high for this month and was 8 percent above last month and 54 percent greater than for March a year ago. March slaughter of cattle was 3 percent greater than for last month and for

March a year ago. Calves slaughtered totaled 3,600 head and was up 20 percent from the previous month but was unchanged from the number slaughtered a year ago. Sheep and lambs slaughtered totaled 100 head compared to "none" slaughtered last month and for March last year.

NORTH CAROLINA INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING APRIL, 1952

